

## Agreement with ULFA

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah hailed as “a golden day” for Assam and its people, the pro-talks faction of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) signed a peace accord Friday with the governments at the Centre and state, agreeing to shun violence, disband the organization and join the democratic process.
- Shah, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, and representatives of the ULFA faction signed the accord in New Delhi, raising hopes and strengthening efforts to end decades of insurgency in the state.
- Due to the tripartite agreement being signed today between the Central government, the Assam government and ULFA, the government has achieved success in eliminating all the violent groups in Assam.
- Today’s agreement is very important for peace in Assam and the entire North-East. Under today’s agreement, ULFA representatives have agreed to abjure the path of violence, lay down all their arms and ammunition, and disband their armed organisation,
- The ULFA, Shah said, has also agreed to vacate all camps occupied by its armed cadres, engage in the peaceful democratic process

established by law, and maintain the integrity of the country

## WHAT IS ULFA AND WHY IT WAS FORMED?

- The ULFA was formed on April 7, 1979, to seek the “restoration of Assam’s sovereignty”, a topic that now remains only on the agenda of the Paresh Baruah-led ULFA(I).
- The outfit has been involved in subversive activities that led to the central government declaring it a banned outfit in 1990.
- The Hindu

## Disaster relief

Disaster management		
Prevention – Preparedness (Pre-disaster phase)	Response - Intervention (Disaster)	Restoration - Recovery (Post-disaster phase)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening research capacity</li> <li>• Hazard - vulnerability assessment</li> <li>• Risk assessment</li> <li>• Vulnerability reduction</li> <li>• Compilation of regulations – codes</li> <li>• Spatial planning – urban planning</li> <li>• Institutional framework</li> <li>• Financial resources</li> <li>• Strengthening resources and means</li> <li>• Volunteers education and training</li> <li>• Education – informing general public</li> <li>• Communication planning – media</li> <li>• Compilation of operational plans</li> <li>• Table-top exercises</li> <li>• Field training exercises</li> <li>• Strengthening preparedness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision making system – mobilization</li> <li>• Coordination of involved authorities</li> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Assessment of extent of disaster impact</li> <li>• Search and rescue operations</li> <li>• First-aid treatment and medical care</li> <li>• Immediate care of injuries</li> <li>• Mitigation of damage induced by geodynamic phenomena</li> <li>• Evaluation of aftershock sequence and related phenomena</li> <li>• Informing affected population – media</li> <li>• Volunteers coordination and cooperation</li> <li>• International assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relief measures</li> <li>• Temporary housing</li> <li>• Social support</li> <li>• Financial assistance to the affected population</li> <li>• Informing affected population</li> <li>• Control of rumor diffusion</li> <li>• Reopening of public services</li> <li>• Management of public health issues</li> <li>• Psychological support of affected population</li> <li>• Proposals for interventions</li> <li>• Actions for special sectors (industry, tourism, environment)</li> <li>• Evaluation of actions – improvement of operational plans</li> <li>• Insurance against earthquakes and natural disasters</li> </ul>

State governments design, develop, and deliver disaster response and assistance programs within their own jurisdictions. In doing so, they establish the financial assistance criteria they consider appropriate for response and recovery. Finance

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assistance is intended to support the provinces in:

- Providing or reinstating the necessities of life to individuals, including help to repair and restore damaged homes; re-establishing or maintaining the viability of small businesses and working farms; repairing, rebuilding and restoring public works and the essential community services specified in these Guidelines to their pre-disaster capabilities; and funding limited mitigation measures to reduce the future vulnerability of repaired or replaced infrastructure.

- The Hindu

### 15th Finance Commission

- Disaster risk management: The Commission recommended retaining the existing cost-sharing patterns between the center and states for disaster management funds.
- The cost-sharing pattern between centre and states is: (i) 90:10 for north-eastern and Himalayan states, and (ii) 75:25 for all other states. State disaster management funds will have a corpus of Rs 1.6 lakh crore (center's share is Rs 1.2 lakh crore).

### As per Finance minister -

- the central government does not declare any natural disaster a

national disaster. It is only after an assessment by its team that any natural disaster is classified as a disaster of severe nature as seen in the 2013 floods in Uttarakhand and 2018 floods in Kerala.

- In such a case, there is additional financial assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).
- So, there is no question of calling the floods in Tamil Nadu as a “national disaster”. The central government should ensure clear guidelines when it comes to relief. It should also consider revising its position on excluding long-term or permanent restoration works from the ambit of the SDRF/NDRF.

The Hindu

### Judicial overreach

- Excessive interference of the judiciary with the legislature and the executive is known as Judicial Overreach.
- Pertaining to the judicial activism in India, It is said that it allows unelected judges to thwart the will of the people expressed through their elected representatives; a written Constitution like that of ours, which gives courts the power to strike down laws made by Parliament and state legislatures, this is undemocratic and

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against the rules laid down by our forefathers.

- When judges start to infringe from the separation of power in lieu of judicial activism, then it is considered overreach.
- The real explanation of 'judicial overreach' is that, since authority grows by what it feeds on, judicial authority often appears to grow by consolidation; by the ignorance or the sheer incompetence of legislative bodies set up to enact laws and decide on important matters of state, being unable to do so properly.
- The direct effect of legislative and executive negligence or inability is 'judicial overreach'.
- Weak and injudicious results, not only in the making of laws, but also in their application.
- Therefore, when the judiciary oversteps its mandate, they are said to overreach.
- A few examples of overreach by the Indian judiciary have been stated in the next segment of the paper.

### Rajmudra of shivaji

- The Navy unveiled the new design of epaulets for admirals, with the octagon in the new design drawn from the naval ensign and inspired by raj-mudra of Chhatrapati Shivaji.

- The Navy said the new design is a "true reflection of our rich maritime heritage".

- The new epaulettes have the golden Navy button top, followed by an octagon, an Indian sword and a telescope crossed, followed by stars indicating the ranks.

### The Hindu

#### Rajmudra of shivaji

- After the Muslim invasion of India, the Raj mudras were mostly made in Arabic, Persian or Urdu languages.
- But when Shivaji Maharaj founded the Hindu Empire, then after many years for the first time he made his Rajmudra which was in Sanskrit.
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaja's Rajmudra and Sanskrit verses inscribed on Rajmudra
- The Sanskrit verse on the Rajmudra of Chhatrapati Shivaji  
प्रतिपच्चन्द्रलेखेव वर्धिष्णुर्विश्वन्दिता।  
शाहसूनोः शिवस्यैषा मुद्रा भद्राय राजते॥



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There are four parts in the Rajmudra.

1. प्रतिपच्चन्द्रलेखा इव वर्धिष्णुः  
Pratipachchandraklekhā Eva Vardishnu:

Ascending like the moon after new moon day

2. विश्ववन्दिता Vishvavandita

worshipped by the world. (That is, whom the whole world has worshipped.)

3. शाहसूनोः शिवस्य Shahasuno: Shivasya

Shahaji's son Shivaji's

4. एषा मुद्रा भद्राय राजते Esha Mudra Bhadraya Rajate.

This mudra (Rajmudra) is for welfare. (That is, for the welfare of the people.)

Public welfare

Rajmudra says – Mudra Bhadraya Rajate.

- That is, this Rajmudra is for public welfare.
- This is a very revolutionary idea. Because that was the period when the Sultans of different places used to oppress the subjects.

• No one else imagined that a king's kingdom should be for the welfare of the subjects.

• [The Hindu](#)

Xposat

• The Indian Space Research Organisation has announced a plan to launch its first Xray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) to investigate the polarisation of intense Xray sources.

• The ISRO said that while space based Xray astronomy had been established in India focusing on imaging, time domain studies, and spectroscopy, the XPoSat mission marked a major value addition.

[The Hindu](#)

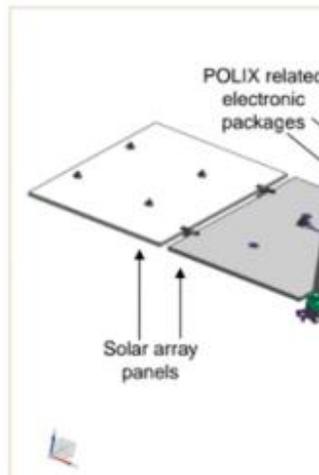
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UPSC BRILLIANCE

## XPoSat Mission

- To measure polarization (degree and direction) of celestial sources of interest in the energy band 5-30 keV
- Mission Life – 5 years, Platform – Modified IMS-2
- Payload – Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays (POLIX)
- Orbit – Circular LEO (500-700 km), Inclination – 30°

Deployed View of XPoSat



## X-ray POLarimeter SATellite (XPoSat)

First mission devoted to X-ray polarization studies of celestial objects has been launched by ISRO.

**Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays (POLIX)** payload is developed by **Raman Research Institute (RRI)**.

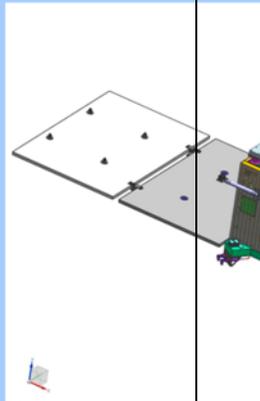
POLIX will study the degree and angle of polarization of celestial sources (5-30 keV).

Modified IMS-2 bus

Pointing accuracy : 0.1 degree

Slow rotation : 0.2 to 0.5 rpm

Low altitude orbit (~600 km) with a low inclination (< 30 degree)



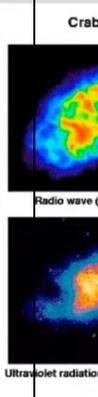
- SAURABH PANDHEY
- The satellite will be launched by the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle

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FROM BASICS TO UPDATES

## X-ray Astronomy ~ High energy

- X-ray astronomy is an **observational branch** of astronomy which deals with the study of X-ray observation and detection from astronomical objects.
- High energy Astronomy, because probing x-ray emissions from several astronomical sources is equivalent to probing high energy processes occurring within the system.

"If you want to be a budding time-domain astronomer, you have to be wavelength agnostic" – Prof. Mansi M. Kasliwal

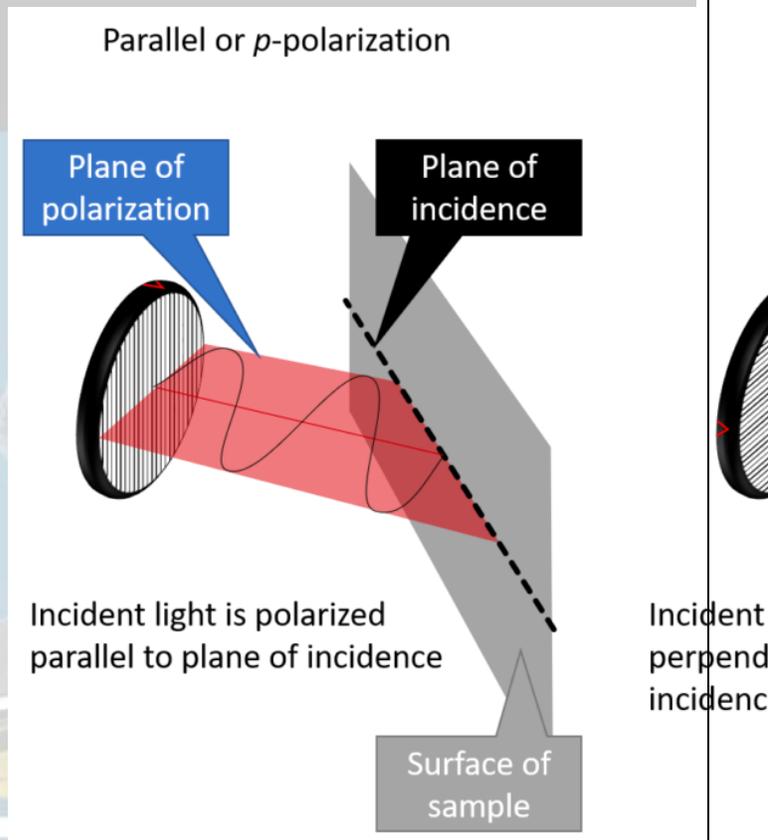
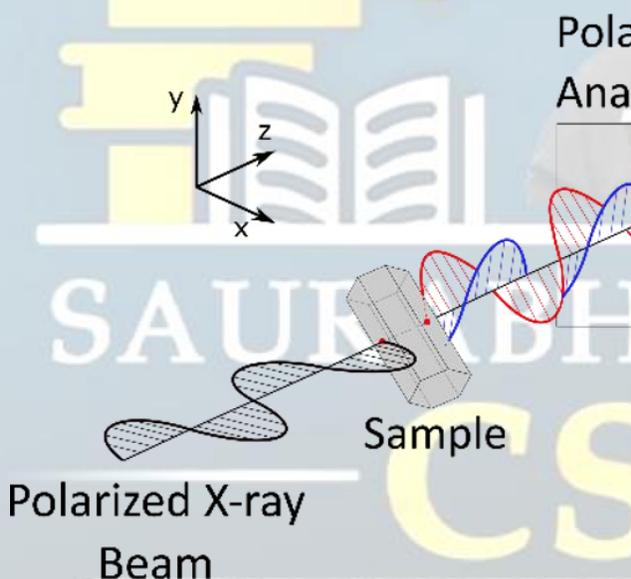


What is polarisation of light ?

Polarization: A light wave that is vibrating in more than one plane is referred to as unpolarized light.

Polarized light waves are light waves in which the vibrations occur in a single plane.

The process of transforming unpolarized light into polarized light is known as polarization.



• The XPoSat is designed for observation from a low earth orbit (nonsun synchronous orbit of 650km altitude, low inclination of approximately six degrees) and will carry two scientific payloads.

• With these two payloads, the mission is capable of simultaneous studies of temporal, spectral, and polarisation features of the bright Xray sources.

• The mission objectives include the measurement of Xray polarisation in the energy band of 830 keV emanating from Xray sources and longterm spectral and temporal

studies of cosmic X-ray sources in the energy band of 0.815 keV.

- The mission life is expected to be approximately five years.
- The primary payload, POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays), is designed to measure polarimetry parameters, specifically the degree and angle of polarization, in the medium X-ray energy range of 830 keV photons originating from astronomical sources.
- The secondary payload is the XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing) payload, which will provide spectroscopic information within the energy range of 0.815 keV.



**WHAT?**

Established in 2009, BRICS represents the collective voice of the Global South.

**MEMBERS**

Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa as its members.

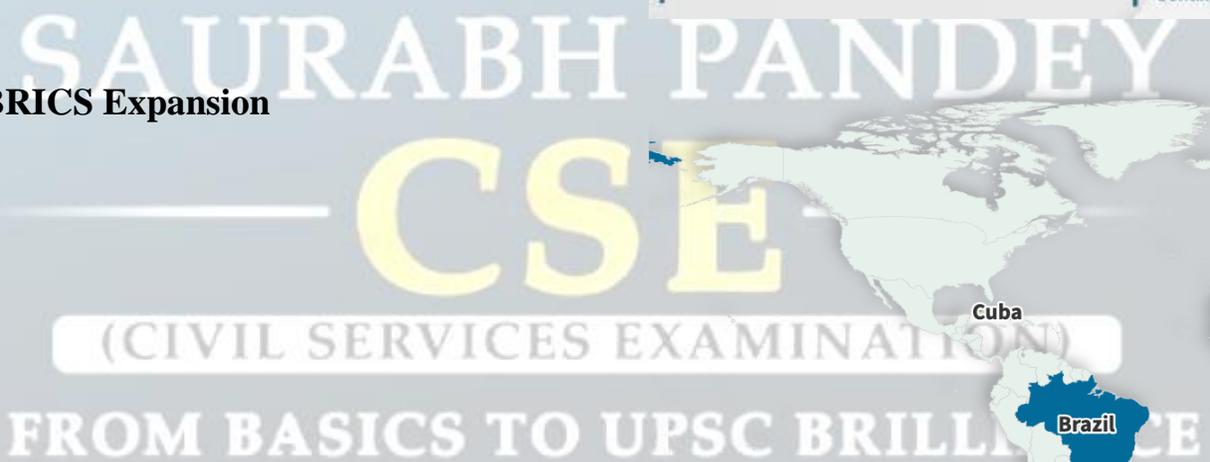
**WHY IN NEWS?**

The chair of BRICS 2021 is In the 13th BRICS Summit is, 'BRICS Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Consolidation and Consensus'

**OTHERS**

There are two components that financial architecture of BRICS:  
-New Development Bank (NDB) Development Bank)  
-Contingent Reserve Arrangement

**BRICS Expansion**



- In a **landmark decision**, current members of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South

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Africa) declared that the grouping would welcome six new countries into the fold.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, towards the end of the 15th BRICS summit in Johannesburg, that the addition of new members would strengthen the grouping and increase confidence in the idea of a multipolar world order.
- (1) Gross Domestic Product
- By the end of 2022, the current (and original six) members of BRICS constituted of 25.77% of the Global GDP, according to the data provided by World Bank (in current U.S. dollar prices). After the expansion, there are now five countries in the grouping whose GDP is over the trillion-dollar-mark.
- (2) Oil production
- Of the four metrics chosen, the BRICS grew the most in its share of oil production after its expansion. It grew from per-day production share of 20.4% to 43.1%.
- (3) Exports of Goods and Services
- By the end of 2022, the original members of BRICS contributed to 18.28% of the global export of goods and services. With the addition of the six new economies, BRICS would now represent 20.58%
- (4) Population
- The grouping went from having a 40.9% share of the global population to 46%. India and China are two of the world's most populous nations.

Among the new entrants, Ethiopia and Egypt have the largest populations.

### Recent case of Argentina

- Argentine President Javier Milei has sent letters to BRICS leaders to formalize his decision to reject an invitation to join the grouping of major emerging economies, the presidency said on Friday.
- The bloc made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa in August announced it was admitting six new members in a bid to counter the Western-led global order.
- The membership of Argentina, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates was due to take effect from January 1, 2024.
- During his election campaign, Mr. Milei said "Our geopolitical alignment is with the United States and Israel. We are not going to ally with communists."

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